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THE GOVERNMENT PRESS AND OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

We are almost disposed to retract the congratulations which we have offered to our readers upon the existence of a press, for whose views of leading public questions the Executive must to a certain extent at least be held responsible, when we find it handling our Foreign Relations with inconceivable levity, instead of the gravity and dignity suited to questions of such magnitude and momentous consequence. We refer to the following passage of an article in a late number of the government paper, which we transfer to our columns to apprise our readers of the views of the Administration on this subject:

FROM "THE UNION."

"Where (the Times says) are we to obtain the twenty or twenty-five thousand men which would be necessary to march to Mexico? Let not the London Times first blindly deceive itself, and then deceive the Mexicans. We should not want twenty-five, or even twenty thousand men, but ten thousand men would be sufficient; and such gallant and enterprising spirits as the teeming valley of the Mississippi could send forth in less than three months, would be sufficient to overrun the whole country. Volunteers would start up like Cadmus's men from the sowing of the dragon's teeth. Sound the bugle through the West and Southwest—let the United States raise the standard to-morrow, and in this proclaimed crusade to the halls of Montezuma and the mines of Mexico, twenty thousand volunteers would appear; and with the cry of 'Ho, West!' the speculations of the London Times would be dissipated into thin air. If we were to judge of the statesmanlike views of the British Ministry by these speculations of their press, never was a Cabinet more deluded, never was there a people destined to a sadder disappointment. We do not share these views, and are utterly astonished that British Ministers should suffer them to be retained. They would present another confirmation of the old Swedish Chancellor: 'With how little wisdom is this world governed!'"

"If these revelations of the 'London Times' are to be received as the best specimens of English statesmanship, Heaven defend Old England herself! If the 'Times' be, indeed, the best exponent of the insane councils by which she is directed, she had better look to her own safety, instead of forming extravagant crusades against the peace of the world. Her Minister knows the Mexicans well, and he knows something of us. Yet even he is not familiar with our Western people; nor does he know what an improved edition they constitute upon the military and adventurous spirit of the Anglo-Saxon race. He is yet to know how, in such an enterprise as this will be, towards the setting sun, the freedom of our institutions in a young and rising country stir the blood, and exalt the daring enterprise of a free and vigorous people. What! not men enough? Why, let the United States but sound her clarion, and display her flag upon the banks of the Mississippi; let her but say to this man: 'Go to the capital of Mexico; and to these men: 'Go with your wives and children to the region of Santa Fe; and to another: 'March with your neighbors to the delicious banks of the Colorado, of California,' and they will not only have volunteers enough to answer to the call, but more than enough. The difficulty will be in keeping men back, not in sending men forward. Does England really desire, by thus fanning the flame into a Mexican war, to see us take California; and not only take it, but keep it? A worse than Egyptian darkness has come over her land, if she is ruled by such inflated counsels as this article of the 'London Times' would preach up to her people."

Whatever we have put such a notion into the head of the Administration, or of any Member of it, (the government editor included,) as that the London "Times" represents the temper or the sentiments of the British Ministry, it is certain that, if the Administration should make many such mistakes as this, and act accordingly, it will soon involve our Foreign Relations in great confusion, and itself in perplexity still greater. As we understand the matter, there is no such thing as "a government press" in London, nor even a single paper in that city which the British Ministry holds any confidential communication; the views of the Government of that country in regard to pending questions being, as we have had occasion lately to remark, made known through the Ministers in both Houses of Parliament, so far as it is deemed expedient to give publicity to them. The leading articles of the London Press are, it is true, generally very able, and usually, we may say habitually, mordant towards other nations, in every thing pertaining to national, commercial, or political rivalry; but are of no more consequence, in reference to the particular purposes of the British Government, than, for example, the thousand and one reports and conjectures recently set afloat from this city through all the newspapers of the country, concerning the purposes of this Government, which, as we have seen, a single breath of the Executive, through its recognised organ in this city, has been sufficient to dissipate in a moment. To suppose the London "Times" to represent the British Ministry, and to undertake to hold that Ministry accountable for either the opinions or the temper of that journal, a man must indeed shut his eyes to what passes daily before him. One of the very latest numbers of the "Times" received in this country assails the Ministry, in regard to the grant to Maynooth College, in such terms as can leave no doubt of its enmity and ill-will, instead of its friendliness to it, as will be seen by the following paragraph, taken from it, now going the rounds of our papers:

"It is with real concern that we find the public sentiment little represented either in the debates of the House, or in the policy of the Cabinet. We repeat, that if the measure was so sound, so humane, so healing, so necessary, it is the greatest pity that Sir R. Peel did not secure beforehand the sympathy and acquiescence of the people. As it is, the nation is ministerial, not popular. If Peel is right, the nation is wrong; and if he intends to carry on a series of similar revolutions, it is painful to think of the vast amount of public distrust, and indignation, and remonstrance that lie in store for us. When Peel is on one side, and the people on another, we are not ashamed to own on which side our sympathies lie. We are almost content, in that case, to resign him that monopoly of wisdom and virtue which he so sufficiently appreciates, and to seek the consolations of society among the uninitiated, impolitic multitude."

Even had there been any sort of foundation, instead of there being none, for the supposition that the London "Times" enjoys the confidence of the British Ministry, surely it is the province of the government paper here, instead of seeking to excite popular animosity against a nation with whom it has just proclaimed the expediency and the duty of amicable negotiation, to promote peace with all the power of its eloquence, and by the yet more cogent argument of the inseparability of peace and the national welfare and prosperity. But what must not be the mortification and chagrin of every intelligent citizen, at seeing the mere railing of the London party press made an excuse for such an article as that above quoted; for such a flow of gasconade—such a prodigious expenditure of needless valor—such an exhibition of what is most calculated to make us ridiculous in our own eyes as well as in all other eyes which look upon us! And need we say, in addition, how very unbecoming must be considered the personal reference which the government paper has not been restrained by considerations of delicacy and propriety from making to the gentleman who at this moment represents the British Government in this country? Of the members of the Administration, one at least, and he the one through whom Foreign Ministers hold intercourse with this Government, has been abroad in the capacity of Foreign Minister—has studied and observed the courtesies due between Ministers and the Governments to which they are accredited; and he owes it to himself to interpose to prevent appeals such as this from being made through the government press to the personal knowledge and opinions of Ministers with whom he may be engaged, as in this case he actually is, in the most delicate negotiations.

Upon the domineering pretension, the spirit of aggression, and the apparent disposition to resort to arms with or without reason, which characterize the above article from the government press, we do not intend here to comment, meaning to do so at large upon the text which the government paper furnishes, in the same columns from which the above extract is copied, as follows:

"Mexico.—The idle complaints and the blustering menaces of Mexico must now be exposed. We have opened the merits of the Oregon question. We must now proceed to Mexico. We commence the discussion this evening, by publishing the first part of a very able paper on the Mexican question, being the first article of the May number of the 'Democratic Review.' We shall finish it to-morrow, when we shall commence a series of original articles on this subject prepared for 'The Union.'"

We have had our eye on the article in the "Democratic Review" which is above referred to, proposing, when at leisure, to review the Review. We are sorry to see that the Administration adopts and avows it. By doing so, however, our purpose of answering the article is confirmed; and we shall now lose no time in doing it.

It is confidently stated by Washington correspondents of the New York papers that Mr. Pickens, of South Carolina, has declined accepting the Mission to London, tendered to him by the Executive.

The reputation of the late Rev. SYDNEY SMITH will hardly fail to direct the attention of the reader to the literary relic from his pen which occupies a few columns in the fourth page of this day's paper. The perusal of it will amuse and interest, if it do not instruct them.

CONNECTICUT.

The Legislature of Connecticut commenced its session at Hartford on Wednesday last. A. U. SKINNER being chosen President pro tem. of the Senate, and WM. W. BOARDMAN Speaker of the House of Representatives—both Whigs. The Whig vote cast for the Speaker of the House was 93, against 56 "democratic."

Governor BALDWIN, as is usual in Connecticut, was escorted by the military to the State-House, where, after taking the oath of office, he delivered his annual speech.

From this it appears that the financial affairs of the State are in a most gratifying condition. At the close of the fiscal year there was a balance of the Treasury of \$25,300 90, besides a permanent fund of \$400,400, the income of which is applicable to the ordinary civil list expenses of the Government. There is also a school fund amounting to \$2,051,423. From the income of which \$117,730 was distributed during the past year among 1,658 school districts. Connecticut is free from debt.

Governor BALDWIN adheres to the Whig doctrine of protection and distribution, attributing to the former the "increasing prosperity in the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing pursuits of our citizens."

Relative to the proposed annexation of Texas to the Union, the Governor says:

"The subject has acquired deeper and more fearful interest since the last session of the General Assembly, by the passage of a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress, with a view to its accomplishment, and to the future admission of five new States from its territory, to extend and perpetuate the system of human slavery, and add to its already predominant influence in the national councils. The resolution has been passed not only in utter disregard of the remonstrances of Mexico, but in the face of the national honor for the faithful observance of our treaty stipulations, and in opposition to the clearly expressed will of a large portion of the people of the United States, and for an object which they deem incompatible with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, and with the compromises of the Federal Constitution, and with the great purposes for which it is declared by the people to have been ordained and established. It has been passed, as I firmly believe, by a usurpation of power never delegated by the people, but denied by the solemn resolutions, at different periods, of the thirteen original States.

"The object, however, is not yet consummated. And I recommend to the General Assembly to guard against any interference, which their silence at this time might seem to justify, that a measure so unfounded in principle, so dangerous as a precedent, and so destructive in its tendency to the peace and prosperity of the country, and the objects of our Union, can ever receive the sanction of the people of Connecticut."

Tobacco.—The inspection of Tobacco in the five State warehouses in the city of Baltimore for the last week are over two thousand hogsheads.

We also observe that a parcel of 480 hogsheads of tobacco from Mason county, Kentucky, was sold in that city last week by Messrs. JOHN SULLIVAN & SONS, at the high average price of \$8 82½ per hundred pounds—the sale amounting to about \$33,000.

CANADA.

By a proclamation in the Canada Gazette we learn that the Governor has further prorogued the Provincial Parliament to the 17th June. Despatches lately received by the Governor General from the Colonial Office, state, in reply to the address of the House of Assembly, that her Majesty's Government have no intention of imposing a tax upon Colonial built vessels. An application having been made through the American Minister in London to her Majesty's Government praying for the pardon of Henry Shaw and Hiram Loock, two of the American citizens who were banished to New South Wales, the Queen has been pleased to comply with it.

"THE VOICE OF THE WEST ON OREGON.—We have collected together a number of articles from some of the leading Western papers indicative of the public sentiment with regard to this great question. It is gratifying to see the cordial unanimity of opinion with which it is taken up, and the universal determination that our rights to the territory should be stoutly and ably advocated. There is but one sentiment and one voice on the subject. What is clearly ours will be so claimed and maintained, let Great Britain take offence as she may."—New York Evening Post.

Undoubtedly, "what is clearly ours" ought to be "so claimed and maintained," at a proper time and in a proper manner. But the very question at issue, in this case, between the United States and Great Britain, deemed a fit subject for negotiation by all previous Administrations of this Government, and now admitted by the present to be such, is, "What is clearly ours?" The "universal determination," the Evening Post will grant, cannot determine a question of right. That is not a question of feeling, but of fact; to be decided not by popular demonstration, but upon evidence.

The Evening Post, from which the above paragraph is copied, having shown, in regard to another great National question, a proper sensibility to the national honor and the national interest, so compromised by the late Administration in the affair of Texas, we suppose that it is not unwilling to listen to reason in regard to this Oregon question. We therefore ask its attention to one view of the subject which seems to have been overlooked by it and others. We refer to the state of the Oregon question (which nothing has since occurred to change or alter) as understood and admitted by the United States about twenty years ago. For this purpose we avail ourselves of the authority of the Hon. RICHARD RUSH, in a work published after his return from his honorable service as Minister of the United States at the British Court; from which we make the following extract, and ask for it the attention of our readers:

FROM RUSH'S "RESIDENCE IN LONDON."

"The British Plenipotentiaries asserted that earlier voyages of English navigators, amongst them Cook's, gave to Britain the rights of prior discovery on this [the Northwestern] coast. They alleged also that purchases of territory had been made by Britain or her subjects from the natives south of this river before the American Revolution. They made no formal proposal of a boundary in these regions, but intimated that the river itself was the most convenient, and said they could agree to none that did not give them the harbor at its mouth, in common with the United States. To this we could not assent, but were willing to leave things west of the mountains at large for future settlement. To this they objected, and made in turn propositions objectionable in our eyes. Finally, it was agreed that the country on the Northwest coast of America, westward of the Rocky Mountains, claimed by either nation, should be open to the inhabitants of both for ten years for purposes of trade, with the equal right of navigating all its rivers.

"I cannot leave this part of the negotiation without remarking that the important question of territorial rights which it involves between the two nations is still an open one; and I do not fear to record the prediction that it will be found a question full of difficulty, under whatever administration, either of Great Britain or of the United States, it may hereafter be approached."

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN OHIO.—An article in Hunt's Merchants' Magazine for May on the "Canal Commerce of Ohio," says that in the State of Ohio there are completed eight hundred and eighty-two miles of canal and slack-water navigation, owned exclusively by the State. The State also owns one-half of the stock in twenty-six turnpike companies, embracing nearly one thousand miles of macadamized roads, traversing different sections of the State.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALABAMA.—We learn from the report of the Committee on Agriculture, made at the last session of the Legislature of this State, that there are five principal and several other minor mines of gold and silver in Randolph county, Alabama, producing about \$125,000 annually, and employing from three to five hundred people. There are inexhaustible beds of fine iron ore in the same county. There are also rich mines of gold and silver in Tallapoosa, and gold has also been found in Coosa, Talladega, and Chambers. Iron foundries have been established in Benton and Talladega. Nitre is found in abundance in Blount. There are immense quantities of coal on this side of Tuscaloosa and in many other places. Salt can be manufactured near Jackson in Clarke county; iron ore, marble, granite, limestone, &c. are also found in this county. Lead ore in large quantities and of excellent quality is found in the bed of the Tennessee on the Muscle Shoals.

DUELING IN LOUISIANA.—The Convention now in session to alter the Constitution of the State of Louisiana have expressed their disapprobation of duelling by incorporating a section in the general provisions of the Constitution, which disfranchises and renders ineligible for any civil office under the State any person who shall hereafter fight a duel, be a second at a duel, or carry a challenge to fight a duel.

THE EMPIRE CLUB.

Mr. BROWNLOW, of Tennessee, now in New York, gives a sketch of the prominent characters attached to the famous Empire Club in New York. We find the account published in the Richmond Whig. The head of the Club, he says, is a refugee from justice in Albany, for a late riot and attempt at murder. He was once arrested in Washington for stealing Treasury notes in New Orleans, by order of the President.

The lieutenant of the Club was tried for the murder of a man named Louden, and was saved from the penitentiary for life by a hung jury. He was once arrested for stealing Treasury notes. One of the members was once convicted of manslaughter, and served out his time for the offence in the penitentiary. Another was convicted of theft and burglary, and pardoned out of the penitentiary by Gov. Bouck. Another was once arrested in New Jersey as a pickpocket, and after escaping because of some informality in the arrest, he came and joined this Club. Another, besides being a common thief, was once sent to the penitentiary for the murder of a man by the name of McCoy. Another vagabond is of the low order of gamblers, and has been twice arrested for riots. Another was once arrested for stealing a pocket-book, and another time for stealing goods. Another has been once arrested for stealing, and frequently indicted as a gambler. Another never was known to commit but one capital offence, and that was stealing a clock, for which he was indicted and tried. And another has been arrested three times in the last two years for stealing goods of various kinds. This statement is put forth by Mr. Brownlow to corroborate the statements to the same effect heretofore made by the New York Express and other New York papers, and by Mr. Clineham in his speech in the House of Representatives.—Alexandria Gazette.

Advices from St. Domingo state that President GUERRIER, of Hayti, died at St. Marks on the 15th April, and was buried on the 18th with military honors. On the 17th, General LOUIS PIERROT was proclaimed President on the part of the north. Although more than seventy years of age, Pierrot is said to be still active. He was a prince under Christophe. As he is strongly favorable to the blacks, in preference to the Creoles, doubts were entertained of his being acknowledged by the southern part of the island.

According to the Jamaica Times, the last act of President GUERRIER was a refusal to sign a death-warrant for the execution of ten persons who had been condemned to be shot, remarking at the time, "I am an old man myself, and have but a few short days to live; why, therefore, should I deprive my fellow-creatures of life?" Having said this, he fell back and expired. Of his brief administration the Journal of Commerce says:

"It commenced while the people were laboring under a manifold complication of sufferings, such as rarely falls to the lot of nations. Impoverished by earthquakes and conflagrations, all the elements of their prosperity paralyzed by the anarchy which supervened upon the overthrow of a relentless despotism, the wisdom and vigor of his measures elevated the people from a condition of rapidly increasing indigence and despair to present comfort and prospective wealth. Peace and order every where prevailed, and industry long intermitted had begun to resume her activity and to be rewarded with her usual of plentiful returns. The failing health of the patriotic President had impaired his vigor for a few months preceding his decease; and this circumstance encouraged the recent attempt of Herard, which the present emergency will doubtless incite him to renew, to reinstate himself in the Presidency wherefrom he was ejected."

RHODE ISLAND.

The Legislature of Rhode Island met and was duly organized on Tuesday last. On the next day bills of general amnesty were introduced in both branches. They provide for the liberation of Thomas W. Dorr and all other persons now in prison for offences against the sovereign power of the State, and restore them to their former rights and privileges. They also propose to remit all fines and penalties incurred under the act of 1842, and direct that no prosecution shall be hereafter commenced for the offences therein mentioned.

On Saturday, the General Assembly adjourned, to meet again on the fourth Monday in June instant, to which time all the matters relating to the imprisonment of Dorr have been postponed. The vote for postponement was 39 to 28 in the House, and 18 to 14 in the Senate. In the mean time, committees have been appointed to be prepared to report upon all petitions, resolutions, and other papers relating to the subject.

ALABAMA LAW.

TEXAS ANNEXED.—A few days ago (says the Mobile Herald) Judge BRAGG, of the Circuit Court now sitting, decided that Texas was a part of the United States! The question came up by a juror petitioning to be excused from the performance of his assigned duty, on the plea that he was a citizen of Texas. The Judge ordered him to take his seat in the box with the other eleven, giving for his reason that Texas was a part of the United States, and all her citizens liable to be called upon to do duty as citizens of the United States!

Among the passengers by the Hibernia, is JOEL W. WHITE, late U. S. Consul at Liverpool. He is said to be the bearer of important despatches from the U. S. Legation at Belgium to the Secretary of State.

General DAWSON (one of the Representatives in Congress from Louisiana) has reached his home from Washington "in such a precarious state of health that he is hourly alternating between this world and the grave." So says the St. Francisville Chronicle of the 26th ultimo.

It would appear that American shippers of FLOUR to the British West Indies are about to encounter competition from an entirely new quarter. Wilmer's Liverpool News-Letter of the 18th ultimo states, on the authority of a letter from Cork, Ireland, that flour was being shipped to some extent from that neighborhood to the West Indies, on terms which enable the shippers to compete successfully with the Americans. The following is an extract from the letter in question:

"A few of our millers have been working to some extent at barrelled flour, for export to the West Indies, within the last few months; and I do not despair of seeing operations of this nature form a very important feature in the milling trade, under the advantages held out by the grinding-in-bond bill. At present flour can be sold here free on board, to the West India merchant, at a price which will leave him a fair margin for profit, and enable him to undersell the Americans in most of the islands. I can speak positively of Barbadoes. One firm connected with that island has lately purchased 1,500 barrels from a miller in this city. At first, of course, there is some little difficulty and prejudice to overcome; but in good harvests there is little doubt of the Irish millers being able to cut out the Americans, as it goes in free of the imperial duty, and freights are less from Liverpool or this country than from the United States. The flour already sent out from hence is considered, in Barbadoes, much superior to the American manufacture."

Of course it will be understood (remarks the Liverpool paper) that the flour so exported is made virtually from foreign wheat, the price of which is often low enough to enable the English or Irish miller to compete with the produce of the United States; especially with the difference of freights, arising from the fact, that, under ordinary circumstances, many vessels leave England in ballast for the West Indies, whilst American vessels generally earn their freight principally by the outward voyage.

The Philadelphia American of Friday says: We have already recorded the fact that by means of a quiet subscription—started in this city—Mr. CLAY was relieved of considerable embarrassments incurred through his generous aid extended to a relative. We since learn that the amount raised for Mr. CLAY is about 50,000 dollars, of which about 35,000 dollars have been appropriated to the removal of all incumbrances from his estate. ASHLAND therefore stands free, and its noble owner has besides a moderate sum remaining from the offerings of his friends. The testimonial was alike unsought and unexpected—a tribute to worth which the donors rejoiced in their ability to make.

HAIR-RESTORING AFFAIR.—We learn (says the Cincinnati Commercial) that a most heartrending affair took place at Hamilton, Ohio, on Saturday last. A young man at that place was crossing the Miami river on horseback, with his intended wife, a lovely girl, when the latter's horse stumbled, and she fell into the water. Her lover hastened to her assistance, and carried her both into deep water; both were drowned while locked in each other's arms. On Sunday the body of the young man had been recovered, and between one and two thousand persons were gathered to search for the other.

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LETTER FROM MR. CLAY.

The subjoined letter from Mr. CLAY, in answer to the Address of the Central Clay Committee of the city of New York, was read on Friday night before the committee and a large number of citizens who had assembled for the purpose of hearing it:

ASHLAND, APRIL 25, 1845.

GENTLEMEN: The Hon. WILLIS GREEN delivered to me a few days ago, at this place, the address to me which you did me the honor to make the 4th of March last, enrolled on parchment and enclosed in a silver case, manufactured by Mr. William Adams for the occasion.

I received it with emotions of grateful sensibility, which it would be vain to attempt to describe. Waiving all consideration of the causes and consequences of the recent Presidential election, of which it treats, as a past and irrevocable event, on which I have neither inclination, nor would it, perhaps, be fitting for me to expatiate, I take pleasure in expressing my profound and grateful sense of the great, persevering, and efficient labors of the Central Clay Committee of the city of New York during the canvass which preceded the election. And I must express also the high and lasting obligations which I feel to the committee and to the Whigs of New York for the ardent attachment and generous confidence towards me, displayed at the commencement and throughout the whole progress of the campaign, and now manifested in terms of fervid and touching eloquence in the address before me. The patriotism which animated them in the contest could never have been doubted; but this document, prepared after our defeat, bears conclusive evidence both of their patriotism and disinterestedness.

My situation is peculiar. I have been, in spite of unexpected discomfiture, the object of honors and of compliments usually rendered only to those who are successful and victorious in the great enterprise of mankind. To say nothing of other demonstrations, the letters, addresses, and communications which I have received, since the election, from every quarter, from collective bodies and individuals, and from both sexes, conveying sentiments and feelings of the warmest regard and strongest friendship, and deploring the issue of the election, would fill a large volume. I have been quite as much if not more affected by them than I was by any disappointment or personal interest of my own in the event of the contest. Among them, gentlemen, your kind address will be ever cherished by me with the most grateful feelings; and in the durable form in which you have had the goodness to transmit it to me, it will be preserved as a precious memorial, on which my remotest descendants may gaze, as I have preserved it, with proud satisfaction.

I am, gentlemen, with high respect, your faithful friend,

H. CLAY.

Messrs. JAMES R. WOOD, BENJ. DRAKE, and others.

The Tribune remarks that the letter was received with the most lively and prolonged demonstrations of satisfaction and delight by the whole assembly.

FROM THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN.

CALIFORNIA.—Not long since we published a paragraph from the Nashville Union to the effect that disturbances had arisen in California between the American settlers and the Mexicans, and that from present appearances it was evident that California would soon be in a condition to be annexed to the United States. More recently we find the subject alluded to by the New Orleans Courier. "Information with regard to this favored portion (California) of the globe," says that paper, "is eagerly sought after by our citizens, as it is destined ere long to be annexed to the United States. The large number of Americans already settled and emigrating there give assurance of the result."

The Mexican Minister, Sig. CREVAS, was not far wrong in his foreboding when he intimated that the annexation of Texas to the United States was the beginning of the absorption of Mexico. Yet such is the unhappy condition of that Republic—such her weakness, disorder, and utter prostration—that she is compelled to look upon her approaching doom without the power to avert it.

It is in view of such results as are here referred to that the question of annexation has assumed, in our estimation, its chief importance. All other issues connected with it were of comparatively little moment—in what mode annexation should be accomplished—whether Texas was sufficiently independent to negotiate for annexation—these and all such questions were comparatively small matters. The great question was, and is, if we begin with acquiring Texas where shall we stop? How far are the limits of the Union to be extended in the Southwest? How far can they be extended with safety to the continuance of the Union? A wide expanse, vague, confused, illimitable, spreads before the view—an expanse of chaos, in which our destinies are to lose all shape and distinctness.

MAY-DAY IN NEW YORK.

The moving scene of the first day of May is thus described by the correspondent of the Charleston Courier:

NEW YORK, MAY 2, 1845.

Yesterday the grand saturnalia of "moving" came off in our immense city with all the usual horrible accompaniments. As WILLIS says, the bed-bugs took their annual airing, and carts loaded with conglomeration; pictures and pails, brooms and wine glasses, dressing tables and coal scuttles piled up in desecrating confusion. Indeed, not even WILLIS himself, inimitable as he is at the impossibilities of language, can paint even a faint resemblance of the horrors of moving in New York. This mania has run for so many years, and has been so regularly handed down from generation to generation, that it may be fairly set down as hereditary and incurable. Think of forty thousand families being obliged to vacate their homes at exactly 12 o'clock on a particular day, with the new occupants spreading upon their beds as they hurry away to press in turn upon the beds of others; while the streets and side walks are lined breast high with such an omnium gatherum of household refuse as can be conceived by an experienced housekeeper. Isn't it dreadful? But, thank Heaven, it is over. We are all moved and settled down (practically speaking) comfortably for another twelvemonth.

VERY SINGULAR.—Worcester county, Massachusetts, has the honor of being the birth-place of three members of the present Cabinet, viz: Messrs. BANCROFT, WALKER, and MARCY—the two former were natives of Worcester, and the latter was born in Southbridge.—Bull. Sun.

There is one little mistake in the statement which deserves to be corrected, and, though the correction may strip the coincidence of some of its curious character, yet there is enough of it left to make the matter sufficiently remarkable. Worcester county has sufficient honor in having given birth to Messrs. Bancroft (the Secretary of the Navy) and Marcy (the Secretary of War), the former born in the town of Worcester, and both in the county; but the Keystone State has the honor of claiming Mr. Walker (of the Treasury) as her native son.—Union.

REV. STEPHEN SMITH, notwithstanding his losses by American securities, died with a very large sum of money. In his will his wife was appointed executrix, and he left \$30,000 to his son, \$10,000 to his wife, and distributed the rest of his property, which amounts to some \$80,000, among his former servants and others.

The Editor of the Boston Courier was recently attacked in a meeting held in Faneuil Hall. Thoreau he replies: "We understand that we have been severely handled in Faneuil Hall by two or three of our friends, but that is all well enough. It is not every one who attempts to speak in that venerable forum that has so good a subject."

The dry-goods store of Messrs. BARKER & POWELL, in New York, was partially destroyed by fire last Sunday morning. Loss estimated at \$40,000, most of it covered by insurance.

MESMERISM.

Extraordinary as is the following account of the successful employment of this agent in a great surgical operation, it is apparently so well authenticated that we feel bound to place it before our readers: